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E. De la Garza

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: Kika de la Garza

DATE: 9 February 1972

Washington, D C -- Rep Kika de la Garza today hailed the action of his Committee on Agriculture for its approval of the Rural Development legislation promising to improve the standard of living of millions of American farm families and rural small town residents.

Rep de la Garza was a co-sponsor of this legislation introduced by the Agriculture Committee Chairman Bob Poage of Waco.

Basically, according to the South Texan, the bill would broaden the credit services of the Farmers Home Administration (FHA), emphasize rural development, and give greater emphasis to the community development and environmental aspects of the Small Watershed and Resource, Conservation and Development Programs administered by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The South Texas Congressman explained that the measure for the first time would authorize aid to finance pollution abatement and control programs in rural areas. The measure would also authorize grants to smaller communities which are not now available.

This is another of the efforts de la Garza is making to interest urban congressmen in the plight of the rural areas. On 14 April 1971 the South Texan made a speech on the floor of the House on this problem -- and re-emphasized today his total support of this proposal. Said de la Garza today, "I repeat my earlier statements that we hear repeated pleas for increased expenditures for the cities, while the flow of people continues into the same cities. We must emphatically attack the problem at its source. Rural America is the grassroots of our country and it is very unfortunate that this vast segment really is suffering a plight not of their own making. I know of no one who is poor by choice."

Again he reiterated, "let us work together so that we might make truly a better life for all Americans."